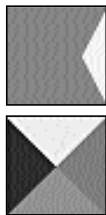


FLEET FOCUS



Bravo Zulu

Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center

Good Conduct Medal
DS2 David Gonzales

Letter of Commendation
DS2 Gary Trent

USS William H. Bates (SSN 680)

Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal
SK1(SS) Godklewski
EM2(SS) Miller

Sailor of the Quarter
SK1(SS) Godklewski
EM2(SS) Miller

Submarine Warfare Qualified
MSSN(SS) Barbosa
MFFN(SS) Riggan

Command Advancement Program
ET2(SS) Goude

VP-9: Maintainers honored with Golden Wrench award

Continued from A-1

complete both an operational deployment and an at-home training cycle and to be objectively evaluated on overall maintenance performance and production. Without operable aircraft, aviation squadrons are unable to perform their mission. For this reason, the maintenance department is viewed as the backbone of the squadron.

Over the past 18 months, VP-9 overcame many challenges, including the introduction of a new model P-3C aircraft, multiple operational and training detachments conducted during the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC), combat readiness qualification of 11 aircrews and the daunting task of a multi-site deployment to the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf. The squadron cleared each of these hurdles, due to the unparalleled support provided by Golden Eagle maintainers.

According to Spohnholtz, people have been the cornerstone of the squadron's success. "This squadron has the best maintenance personnel in the Fleet, probably in the Navy. I have never had the opportunity to work with such a large group of enthusiastic, motivated professionals. Not only do they do their jobs better than the rest, they enjoy their jobs. I think that has been the key to our success as a squadron."

"The entire department can be proud of their efforts and the tremendous job they did, and continue to perform as the best of the best," added Hannes.

During the award period, VP-9 set the standard for operational excellence and maintenance proficiency. Flying more than 9,325 mishap-free flight hours and more than 1,740 sorties, the squadron surpassed 126,000 hours and over 20 years of mishap-free flight operations.

In a personal message announcing the award winner, Rear Adm. Michael L. Holmes, Commander, Patrol Wings, U. S. Pacific Fleet commended the squadron for its superb performance. "Despite keen competition among (Pacific Fleet Patrol) squadrons, the Golden Eagles' performance during the competition cycle was supreme. VP-9 clearly set the standard in maintenance practices and further distinguished themselves by the outstanding manner in which the maintenance department met the challenges presented by the introduction of the (Anti-Surface Warfare Improvement Program aircraft) to the Fleet. 'By the book' aircraft



VP-9 photo

Rear Adm. Michael Holmes, Commander, Patrol Wings, U.S. Pacific Fleet presents the AVCM Donald M. Neal Aircraft Maintenance Golden Wrench Award to (from left to right) Patrol Squadron Nine's AO1 Robert Bentsch, AE1(AW) Christopher Weisse, and Commanding Officer Cmdr. Matt Peters.

maintenance which emphasized safety while balancing production, training and active quality assurance programs created a 'total package' approach that clearly warrants recognition as COMPATWINGSPAC's top maintenance performers for 1998."

Early on in the IDTC, Golden Eagle maintainers set the pace. Several exercises tested the Maintenance Department's ability to provide multiple aircraft for extended exercises requiring around-the-clock flights. Exercises such as these can be a good indicator of the squadron's ability to sustain long-term operations, such as those conducted during deployment. Without the outstanding support of the squadron's maintenance department, these exercises would not have been successful.

In addition to supporting several exercises, the maintenance department set the standard for excellence during several crucial inspections. Among these, the Aviation Maintenance Evaluation (AME) was an overwhelming success. This inspection evaluates the squadron on record keeping and compliance with several critical programs such as training, tool control and hazardous material controls.

Introduction of the new Anti-Surface Warfare Improvement Program (AIP) aircraft challenged the maintenance department. This new model of the P-3C aircraft includes a number of new surveillance and reconnaissance systems that incorporated a number of new maintenance procedures. The squadron's aviation electronics technicians were more than up to the task, learning these new procedures quickly. Their expertise was a testament to the success of AIP on its first op-

erational deployment.

During deployment, the Golden Eagle maintainers continued to provide the squadron with mission capable aircraft. Operating from detachment sites in Manama, Bahrain; Masirah, Oman; Kadena, Okinawa and Diego Garcia, the squadron's performance was flawless. In addition, the squadron operated successfully from 17 other sites around the Indian Ocean.

Flying more than 950 sorties and 5,500 mishap-free flight hours, the squadron achieved an unparalleled 98 percent mission completion rate on deployment. Expert maintenance and innovative planning provided the foundation for this truly remarkable accomplishment. Quite often, personnel were required to repair aircraft during the heat of the day in Bahrain, where temperatures in August exceeded 130 degrees. The ability of the maintenance department to fix any problem, anytime, anywhere allowed the squadron to support United Nations sanctions against Iraq, to transporting Marines responding to the embassy bombings in the East African nations of Tanzania and Kenya.

Aircraft must be prepared well before a mission is flown. VP-9's goal has always been to maintain aircraft in top material condition at all times through the incomparable technical expertise of the maintenance professionals serving in the squadron.

The safe completion of an exceptionally successful quad site deployment and unmatched achievements during the IDTC have established the Golden Eagles as the squadron most capable of conducting effective maintenance in demanding environments and under the most arduous conditions.

Hawkbill: Sub underway for final SCICEX mission

Continued from A-1

and Hawkbill's final deployment ever, as the ship is scheduled for decommissioning in August. "The really sad part about all of this is the fact that soon we won't have enough submarines available to perform these missions," he said. "We're about to go from having 96 submarines in 1990 to a projected 50 by 2003. We just won't be able to support worthwhile projects like this in the very near future unless changes are made in our submarine building program," the Admiral added.

Dr. Margo Edwards of University of Hawaii leads the science contingent. Edwards will serve as chief scientist for the expedition and will embark the submarine while Hawkbill submerges under the ice. The majority of the effort will be spent in examining the geophysical, chemical, and biological properties of the Arctic Ocean. A major experiment will make use of a new geophysical instrumentation package to map the floor of the Arctic. "My specialty is ocean floor mapping," said Dr. Edwards. "This is a fascinating opportunity for me and I'm really excited to a part of the expedition," she added. Dr. Edwards was on hand to wish Hawkbill farewell and will join the ship in approximately two weeks at the remote Ice Camp location.

The scientists will also use a vast array of specialized equipment to measure water currents, trace water masses, study food chains and evaluate pollution. Normally a very inaccessible part of the world, the submarine has provided exploration at any time and any weather in nearly any water.

USS Greeneville changes command

By JOSN McClain
Shewman

COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Cmdr. Scott Waddle relieved Cmdr. Robert Guy as commanding officer of USS Greeneville (SSN 722) during a Change of Command ceremony last Friday.

Guy commanded the boat from June 1996 to March 1999. He previously served as the executive officer of USS Birmingham (SSN 695) and as the Deputy Director of the Submarine Warfare Systems Centre in Sydney, New South Wales and as the Royal Australian Navy Submarine Weapons Certification Officer.

"Throughout my career I have urged those I work with to keep a clear vision of where they are and where they need to be headed," said Rear Adm. Al Konetzni, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "If you look at Bob in the eye and ask him what he is most proud of during his tour, he'll talk about the crew and their accomplishments," added Konetzni.

"I'm really looking forward to this duty. The crew is superb. Everyone works together and that's why they're one of the best boats on the waterfront," said Waddle.

Waddle takes over Greeneville after having previously served as Executive Officer of USS San Francisco (SSN 711) and most recently attended the National Defense University Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C. where he earned his Masters Degree in National Resource Strategy.

Chosin, NPMOC win community service awards

USS Chosin (CG 65) and the Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center / Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Pearl Harbor won honors in the 1998 Navy Community Service of the Year Award Program honors.

Chosin won first place in the Project Good Neighbor Flagship Program and an Honorable Mention in the Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship, both in the medium sea category. NPMOC/JTWC won Honorable Mention in the Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship in the small ashore category.

The competition spotlights commands are good neighbors in local communities through volunteerism.

The 'partnership for excellence programs' engages commands throughout the Navy with local schools. Sailors volunteer their time to encourage students to achieve their goals through mentoring, tutoring and hands-on involvement with day to day life with the school children.

"While friendly competition helps recognize commands and volunteers, the true winners are the youth and the communities that benefit from the Navy's dedicated, capable and caring Sailors and civilians," said Adm. Jay Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal approved for Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint Guard

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has approved the award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) in addition to the Armed Forces Service Medal (AFSM) to qualifying Service members participating in or providing direct support to Operation Joint Endeavor (OJE) or Operation Joint Guard (OJG).

For the purposes of the award, Operation Joint Endeavor began Nov. 20, 1995, and ended Dec. 19, 1996. Operation Joint Guard

began Dec. 20, 1996 and ended June 20, 1998. Officials estimate 50,000 servicemembers are affected.

To qualify for the medal, a person must have been a member of a unit engaged in Joint Endeavor or Joint Guard for at least one day in the designated geographic area of eligibility or must have deployed to the area as an individual by official orders for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days.

Servicemembers with questions should contact their local personnel offices.

USS Porter commissioned

The U.S. Navy's newest Aegis guided missile destroyer, USS Porter (DDG 78), joined the Atlantic Fleet March 20 during a commissioning ceremony at Port Canaveral, Fla.

Sen. Thad Cochran (Miss.), a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, was the ceremony's principal speaker and Garland Hawthorne Johnson, wife of Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson is the ship's sponsor.

The ship honors a father, Commodore David Porter (1780-1843) and his son, Vice Adm. David Dixon Porter (1813-1891), whose combined legendary naval exploits earned them a place of honor in U.S. Navy history.

Roy Wilkins award nominations sought

Nominations are due April 9 for the Roy Wilkins Service Award to be presented during the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's 90th annual convention July 10-15 in New York City.

One military or civilian member of each service who has significantly enhanced opportunities for African-Americans in the work place will receive the award at the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs awards dinner, July 14. Commands may nominate one person — officer, enlisted or civilian — of any race/ethnic group.

Nominations will be reviewed by a panel, chaired by a flag officer, which will select one person to be the Roy Wilkins award.

Additional information is outlined in NAVADMIN 065/99.

By Ens. Brandon
Montayne

USS FREDERICK

The crew of USS Frederick (LST 1184) hosted Rear Adm. John Totushek, Commander, Naval Reserve Force on March 8.

During the visit, Totushek was presented with a ship's ballcap and given a tour of the ship, which included the combat information center, bridge, the signal bridge and the close-in-weapons system. After viewing topside equipment, the tour proceeded to the tank deck, to see where Frederick's amphibious operations are carried out.

Upon completion of the tour, Totushek addressed the crew at Admiral's Call on the flight deck. He presented three awards, including Frederick's Junior and Senior Sailor of the Year. Petty Officer 3rd class (SW) Eric Camacho and Petty

Officer 1st Class (SW) Scott Wallsinger received these honors, respectively. Chief Petty Officer Belvelyn Williams of Putnam Hall, Fla. also received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Totushek emphasized Frederick's vital role in training reservists. He also stressed the importance of actively integrating the reservists and their training into the daily routine of the ship.

The visit was an excellent opportunity for Totushek to see the work of Frederick's Sailors. The crew enjoyed showing off Hawaii's only amphibious and reserve platform to the admiral.

Selected reservist Petty Officer 2nd Class John Bradley said, "It's great to know that the Commander of the Naval Reserve Force shows an interest in what we do out here. It means a lot that he was willing and eager to come to Hawaii and see what we actually do."



USS Frederick photo

Rear Adm. John Totushek, Commander, Naval Reserve Force listens as a USS Frederick Sailor explains his duty station during a recent visit.